



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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Examiner's Detailed Office Action

1. Claims 1-20 are allowed.

Examiner's Amendment

2. On Tuesday, March 11, 2008, Mark S. Svat, Reg. No. 34,261, Applicant's representative, authorized the examiner to amend claim 11, to include the limitation "having a processor." An Interview Summary has been included.

Regarding claim 11.

11. A system for carrying out a negotiation between a plurality of participants, comprising:

having a processor;

means for defining an invocation pattern for each participant; each invocation pattern being a tuple having at least a name and a set of parameters;

means for attaching a set of coordinator parameters to each invocation pattern;
the set of coordinator parameters defining interdependencies between parameters
of the plurality of participants that are shared across their invocation patterns;
means for constructing a graph to negotiate a set of actions to be performed by
selected ones of the plurality of participants; the graph being constructed with
nodes of one of a first node type representing a negotiating context and a second
node type representing a decision point;
wherein the graph is constructed by the participants with primitives instantiated
by the invocation patterns that are used to negotiate values of parameters; and
wherein at least one node in the graph is a decision point that merges two or
more negotiation contexts into a single decision point; the single decision point
combining values of the parameters from the two or more negotiation contexts.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

3. The following is an Examiner's statement for reasons for allowance:
4. Claims 1-20 are considered allowable since when reading the claims in light of the specification, none of the references of record alone or in combination disclose or suggest the combination of limitations specified in the independent claim(s).
5. The limitations recited in independent claim 1 “... defining an invocation pattern for each participant; each invocation pattern being a tuple having at least a name and a set of parameters; attaching a set of coordinator parameters to each invocation pattern; the set of coordinator parameters defining interdependencies between parameters of the plurality

of participants that are shared across their invocation patterns; constructing a graph to negotiate a set of actions to be performed by selected ones of the plurality of participants; the graph being constructed with nodes of one of a first node type representing a negotiating context and a second node type representing a decision point; wherein the graph is constructed by the participants with primitives instantiated by the invocation patterns that are used to negotiate values of parameters; and wherein at least one node in the graph is a decision point that merges two or more negotiation contexts into a single decision point; the single decision point combining values of the parameters from the two or more negotiation contexts.”

6. The limitations recited in independent claim 11 “... means for defining an invocation pattern for each participant; each invocation pattern being a tuple having at least a name and a set of parameters; means for attaching a set of coordinator parameters to each invocation pattern; the set of coordinator parameters defining interdependencies between parameters of the plurality of participants that are shared across their invocation patterns; means for constructing a graph to negotiate a set of actions to be performed by selected ones of the plurality of participants; the graph being constructed with nodes of one of a first node type representing a negotiating context and a second node type representing a decision point; wherein the graph is constructed by the participants with primitives instantiated by the invocation patterns that are used to negotiate values of parameters; and wherein at least one node in the graph is a decision point that merges two or more negotiation contexts into a single decision point; the single decision point combining values of the parameters from the two or more negotiation contexts.”

7. When taken in context the claim(s) as a whole, were not uncovered in the prior art. Moreover, the dependent claims 2-10 & 12-20, are allowed as they depend upon an allowable

independent claim(s).

8. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments regarding Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Correspondence Information

9. Any inquiries concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael B. Holmes, who may be reached Monday through Friday, between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. EST. or via telephone at (571) 272-3686 or facsimile transmission (571) 273-3686 or email michael.holmesb@uspto.gov.

If you need to send an Official facsimile transmission, please send it to (571) 273-8300.

If attempts to reach the examiner are unsuccessful the Examiner's Supervisor, David Vincent, may be reached at (571) 272-3080.

Hand-delivered responses should be delivered to the Receptionist @ (Customer Service Window Randolph Building 401 Dulany Street Alexandria, VA 22313), located on the first floor of the south side of the Randolph Building.

Finally, information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Moreover, status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have any questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC)

Art Unit: 2129

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Artificial Intelligence

Art Unit 2129

United States Department of Commerce

Patent & Trademark Office

Monday, March 24, 2008

/Michael B. Holmes/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2129